



TALKING POINTS ON PARCC FALL 2015

Q: When will PARCC results be available?

A: The districts will receive PARCC *high school* data in October; state- and district-level results will be announced publicly at the Oct. 27 State Board of Education meeting.

The districts will receive PARCC *elementary/middle school* data in November; state- and district-level results will be announced publicly at the Dec. 8 State Board of Education meeting.

Q: When will parents see their children's PARCC scores?

A: Each district will decide when to mail or otherwise distribute individual student score reports. It is estimated that *high school* reports will reach households in early-to-mid December, while *elementary/middle* student score reports will reach households no later than early January.

Q: Why are we getting the PARCC results back so late?

A: As with most new state assessments, it takes time to analyze, evaluate, and set the scores and performance ranges, since there are no prior-year benchmarks to rely on. It is not unusual for results from the first year of a new state assessment to take longer to generate than in subsequent years. State superintendents and commissioners also took great care in reviewing the performance levels for PARCC, to ensure that the levels were set in a way that would honestly reflect the rigor of this new assessment.

Continued...

Talking Points on PARCC Fall 2015

Q: Why might other PARCC states be releasing their information before Maryland?

A: Each state in the PARCC Consortium needs to inform its own state education board and commission meetings of the results ahead of the media and the general public. As the states keep their own calendars for this purpose, the announcements will not occur on the same day, or necessarily in the same month.

Q: What will the PARCC results show?

A: PARCC offers a more honest reflection than any other test Maryland has administered of where students are doing well, and where they need help to catch up. A low PARCC score or performance level does not mean a child is failing to learn. It's an opportunity for growth, for fine-tuning instruction, and to help children work to meet grade-level expectations. Low scores also reflect the reality that PARCC is more rigorous than other kinds of exams. Over time, students will rise to the challenge, just as they have on the prior state assessments Maryland has given.

Q: What's happening with PARCC this school year?

A: Overall, the PARCC test will be shorter by about 90 minutes and there will not be as much time spent testing. Students will take PARCC in English Language Arts and mathematics after they have completed 80% of the school year or the course (in high school). This means there will be just one 30-day testing window, rather than the two testing windows in the prior school year.